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WORLD MUSIC AT EAST NEUK FESTIVAL 2008

HUUN-HUUR-TU (4 & 5 July- Kinkell Byre and HAS)

JPP (5 July - Kinkell Byre)

SHEILA CHANDRA (4 July- Kinkell Byre)



East Neuk Festival is now just four years old, but already established as one of Britain's most imaginative and successful festivals with the highest quality musicianship at its heart (the Festival won the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society 2007 Award for Audience Development and, one week after tickets going on sale the Festival has already achieved more than a quarter of its target sales).

Artistic director, Svend Brown, believes in always bringing to his venues music that has a relevance to its surroundings, as well as finding links to the heritage and musical roots of Scotland and, in particular, the East Neuk ('corner') of Fife: *we are especially keen to forge links with music traditions abroad, just as sea-faring Fifers have built friendships, trade and political relationships far and wide.*"

That said, there is no real concert infrastructure in Fife, so the venues are somewhat quirky. First there's fiddling...

JPP (Järvelän Pikkupelimannit - Little Folk Musicians of Järvelä) was formed in 1982 in Järvelä Village in Kaustinen, the fiddling capital of Finland (and perhaps the world) with roots that go back to the 19th century and the fiddling tradition of the Järvelä family. They rode upon the wave of the local and national folk music boom in the 80s (particularly the phenomenal national success of Kaustinen fiddler/composer Konsta Jylhä), but were soon making waves of their own with their highly distinctive and personal style of music-making that was immediately recognized and acclaimed. JPP members have experience and training in musical genres outside folk music, including classical and jazz, and unique skills in composition and arrangements that give them their distinctive, constantly evolving style and distinguish them from other fiddle groups. JPP has toured and performed on every continent and has a collection of ten albums to its credit.

At the East Neuk Festival JPP will be a highlight of the *Fiddles at the Barn* programme on Saturday 5 July in the beautifully situated Kinkell Byre, which stands proudly above the rugged coastline at the edge of the famous Devlin Golf Course overlooking the sea and the ancient town of St Andrews. More fiddling will fill the day, including the closer-to-home Auld Reekie Band for the evening *ceilidh*.

SHEILA CHANDRA

The lofty heights of the Kinkell Byre interior will also resound with the remarkable voice of Anglo-Indian singer Sheila Chandra. Following a top-ten pop charts hit at the age of 16 back in the early '80s Chandra has resolutely followed an independent and pioneering career and ignored all musical trends with her finely honed vocal instrument. Her early years were spent exclusively in the recording studio (she has more than a dozen albums to her name) with a short two year period of live performances in the early '90s, only returning to the stage last year after an absence of more than 14 years. Her music is described as Asian influenced World Fusion; she quite literally fuses music from all over the world (Spain, Ireland, India, Scotland etc) in one voice that blurs all geographical and stylistic boundaries. *"If you haven't heard her before, prepare to be amazed."* (The Times).

HUUN-HUUR-TU

Tuva, on the edge of Mongolia, is the origin of the world's most famous throat singers Huun-Huur-Tu (again nominated for a BBC Radio 3 World Music Award this year) who will undoubtedly mesmerise audiences in two extraordinary East Neuk spaces: Kinkell Byre on a double bill with Sheila Chandra (4 July 7.30pm), and in the acoustically amazing interior of a HAS (Hardened Aircraft Shelter) at RAF Leuchars, the air base developed during the Cold War (5 July 2pm). The building itself is brutally modern but the acoustic inside is a cathedral-like reverberant and mysterious sound. Sharing the bill in the HAS will be the Orlando Consort (renowned for its numerous recordings and regular concerts of medieval and early music repertoire) and a lone piper.

This remarkable ensemble has achieved legendary status with its phenomenal technique of throat-singing in which a single vocalist can produce two or even three notes simultaneously by selectively amplifying harmonics naturally present in the voice. Huun-Huur-Tu has travelled the world with a mix of innovation and traditional song and folklore – proud cultural ambassadors from a mysterious and remote part of the world.

The main themes of the classical music programme are Mendelssohn and Bohemia and world class artists include the Eroica and Skampa Quartets, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, pianist Llyr Williams and violinist Alexander Janiczek. The literary strand is a storytelling one – ghost stories in strange and haunted places. East Neuk Festival gratefully acknowledges financial support from Fife Council, Event Scotland, Scottish Arts Council Scotland and its many individual patrons and supporters.

Booking information

Ticket sales open to the general public on 1 February 2008.

Online at www.hubtickets.co.uk (link also on festival website www.eastneukfestival.com)

Email: box_office@hubtickets.co.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)131 473 2000 Fax: +44 (0)131 473 2003

*In person and by post: The Hub, Castlehill, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 2NE

*open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm and same on Saturdays from 11 April.

Further information about the Festival

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Further press information and pictures

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